



## **TOWN OF TEWKSBURY LOCAL HOUSING PARTNERSHIP**

### **Meeting Minutes October 28, 2015**

The meeting was called to order at 7:15 p.m. by Steve Deackoff, Chairman at the Pike House. In attendance were Laura Caplan, Greg Peters, and Melissa Maniscalco. Also in attendance was Steve Sadwick, Director of Community Development, Nancy Reed, Planning Board Representative, and Melissa Johnson, Recording Secretary.

Ron Roy, Edward Starr, Ray White, and Jim Wentworth, Board of Selectmen Representative, were not in attendance.

#### **Approval of Meeting Minutes**

There was no meeting minutes presented for approval.

#### **1) Veteran's Housing**

Ms. Caplan explained that she did some research on veteran's housing and it was quite an undertaking. After many attempts, she was finally able to reach the correct person, Claire Makrinikolas, and was told that she is on family leave. Ms. Makrinikolas did eventually get back to Ms. Caplan and is eager to attend a meeting. Ms. Caplan provided the members with a memo on her research as well as an email she received from Ms. Makrinikolas. Ms. Caplan will invite Ms. Makrinikolas to the December meeting.

7:17 p.m. Ms. Reed arrived.

Discussion took place on vouchers and Ms. Maniscalco discussed the criteria for same including: a need must be demonstrated, high power authority, a project or land for the housing, etc. Discussion took place on whether this is something that the Veteran's Agent could help with. Mr. Deackoff suggested having the VFW, DAV, or other Veteran's organizations in town to see if there are any known homeless veteran's and explained that the Town's veteran's agent, Lisa Davis, really focuses on benefits only. Ms. Caplan suggested inviting Ms. Davis to the meeting with Ms. Makrinikolas. Ms. Reed suggested also reaching out to the State Representatives to see if they could provide some additional information on this. Ms. Caplan noted that Ms. Makrinikolas also suggested reaching out to the local VA Hospital. Discussion took place on the area the Veteran's need to be in order to be serviced by Tewksbury.

It was suggested to compile a list of questions for Ms. Makrinikolas prior to the meeting.

Mr. Sadwick noted that the meeting with the “Solider On” representatives has been rescheduled to November 9, 2015. The purpose of the meeting is to obtain additional information on the program.

**2) Shawsheen Place**

Mr. Sadwick explained that this matter was very close to being resolved and then a glitch occurred with the regulatory agreement. The lenders would like the bankruptcy clause eliminated. There have been many discussions taking place regarding this and the matter is still not fully resolved.

**3) Other Potential Housing Sites**

Mr. Sadwick explained that there is a local group that worked with Habitat for Humanity that has requested time before the Planning Board and there is still some interest in Habitat for Humanity doing additional projects in Tewksbury. Habitat for Humanity is actively seeking sites in Tewksbury. A list of foreclosed and vacant properties is being put together. Discussion took place on the tax liens on the foreclosed properties.

**Old Business**

Mr. Peters asked what the status of the Pike House is. Mr. Sadwick explained that if the building is not moved it will be demolished.

**Adjourn.**

**MOTION:** Ms. Maniscalco made the motion to adjourn at 8:00 p.m.; seconded by Ms. Caplan and the motion carried 4-0.

*Approved: 1/13/16*

*No new information submitted.*